

In that first speech, I mentioned my oath to support and defend the Constitution. But little did I know that 2 short years later, I would witness an attempt by our own President and his allies to subvert the Constitution and summon a mob to disrupt the counting of electoral votes of a free and fair election.

On that day, January 6, 2021, lives were lost, these hallowed Halls were desecrated, and the strength of our democracy was tested. I have been humbled to participate in uncovering facts about that dark day in our Nation's history. I thank Chairman THOMPSON, Vice-Chair CHENEY, my colleagues, and the staff of the January 6 Committee for standing on the side of democracy.

I am proud of the work we have done over the last two Congresses to support our veterans and their families. My Gold Star families tax relief legislation eased the burden on children of those killed in combat or deceased from service-connected disabilities. I thank President Biden for making veterans' toxic exposure a priority. We passed the largest increase in access to veterans' benefits in our lifetime through the PACT Act, which included my COVENANT Act to provide healthcare to burn pit veterans.

The threats we face as a nation continue to grow as we witness Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, Iran's persistent pursuit of a nuclear weapon, and the rise of China threatening our maritime and national security. As we have heard in testimony, China is likely to attempt to take Taiwan by force in the next 5 years. This is our most pressing national security concern.

The action or inaction that we take in standing up to China in this moment will determine whose values will rule the remainder of the 21st century—the United States' and our allies' or the Chinese Communist Party.

That is why as I depart I urge my colleagues to take this threat seriously and to fulfill the constitutional task of Article I, Section 8, to provide and maintain a Navy. If we fail to remain the predominant maritime power in the Pacific, frankly, nothing else that we do here in this Congress will matter if we don't get this right.

God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ON CAMPUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, freedom of speech and thought on college campuses is essential to one of the most

important missions of the university: the search for truth.

While censorship can come from the right or left, many colleges and universities are now zealously devoted to advancing leftwing ideas and are willing to disregard evidence and logic to do it.

Universities should be a marketplace of ideas, not temples to a single political dogma. When students or faculty speak out against established norms, they are canceled, fired, or otherwise stigmatized by peers and university administrators.

This is not what our Founding Fathers intended for our country or for our universities. Thomas Jefferson, who founded the University of Virginia, once wrote: "I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

Universities used to promote this sentiment, but things have changed—and not for the better. Universities should be centers of education, not indoctrination. Yet university leaders either brazenly push their own agenda or walk on eggshells in fear of their own student body.

Research and development suffer when debate and discussion are openly rejected on college campuses. Quashing intellectual curiosity hinders every field of study.

The freedom to speak and think freely comes from God. Students should not have to sign away their First Amendment rights after enrolling in college, especially if those institutions accept taxpayer funds. It is time for colleges and universities to be held accountable when they refuse to protect the free speech of students and faculty.

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Members of the Education and Workforce Committee have submitted multiple bills to promote and protect the freedom of speech on college campuses.

In the next Congress, we look forward to examining closely these bills and other ways to preserve the First Amendment on campuses.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Ms. FOXX. This administration won't be happy until it controls how, when, and where you work. It is hard to know if it is sheer arrogance that drives this administration to think it knows better than you or if Biden is so beholden to Big Labor that he refuses to see what is best for the rest of America.

Regardless, this administration's attack on independent contractors is wrong, and Republicans aren't standing for it.

Many workers, especially women, have come to rely on the flexibility the independent contracting model provides. A regular 9-to-5 schedule does not work for every American.

Forcing all workers into a one-size-fits-all model, while a dream for union bosses, is a mistake. This debate is about freedom. Workers deserve the freedom to choose how they work.

I am pushing back against Democrats' assault on entrepreneurial opportunity and their attempts to control the lives of Americans from birth until death.

Because I have seen firsthand that when the Federal Government steps aside and allows job creators and industry leaders to innovate, the workforce and U.S. economy will thrive.

We have had enough of this Washington-knows-best mentality.

Remember when President Obama told Americans, "You didn't build that." He ridiculously claimed that businesses need the government's help to be successful.

As if this wasn't bad enough, now the Biden administration is telling America's entrepreneurs, "You can't build that." This is unacceptable. We must do everything we can to stop this proposed rule, and I encourage everyone to get involved.

Get on the phone, call your Representative and Senator, and submit a comment. We must put pressure on the Biden administration to withdraw this proposed rule.

Enough is enough. The livelihoods of real people are at risk. Americans should be able to build a future they want for themselves. It is time for Washington to get out of the way.

RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVES G. K. BUTTERFIELD AND DAVID PRICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding North Carolinians and my colleagues retiring from the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable G. K. BUTTERFIELD for 18 years of service and the Honorable DAVID PRICE for 34 years. These gentlemen have given a total of 52 years of service to our State and Nation for which we are indeed grateful.

True statesmen, Representatives BUTTERFIELD and PRICE have been invaluable Members of Congress and they have served with incredible distinction. They are well-respected, admired, loved by colleagues here in Congress, and revered by citizens back home. They each have made their life's work all about service.

Having known each of them for a very long time, I have appreciated the opportunity to learn from them and to work with each of them in North Carolina and here in Congress. Service has been their legacy as it is the rent we pay for living on this Earth.

Together, these incredible Members have kept their rent fully paid up throughout their careers and in North Carolina and in this Congress.

Both scholars and men of enormous intellect, PRICE and BUTTERFIELD have been leaders in their communities, and they have used their expertise on and off Capitol Hill to interrupt injustice and ignorance.